

Name _____



Pen Pals Across Tribes

Lila, a young girl from the Lakota tribe, had always been curious about other Indigenous cultures. One day, she heard about a school project where students could become pen pals with kids from different tribes. Excited about the opportunity to learn about new cultures, Lila eagerly signed up.

Across the country, in the Navajo Nation, a boy named Jonah was also participating in the project. Jonah had heard stories about the Lakota people and their rich traditions and was eager to connect with someone from their tribe.

Lila and Jonah began exchanging letters, sharing stories of their daily lives, traditions, and dreams for the future. They soon discovered they had many similarities despite their different tribes. Both loved spending time with their families, had a deep connection to nature, and dreamt of preserving their Indigenous heritage.

As their friendship grew through letters, Lila and Jonah decided it was time to meet in person and bridge the gap between their cultures. With their parents' support, they embarked on a journey to a neutral meeting place, a beautiful spot in the Rocky Mountains.

Their first meeting was filled with excitement and a bit of nervousness. Lila's family brought traditional Lakota food, and Jonah's family shared Navajo frybread. They exchanged gifts representing their tribes—a dreamcatcher for Lila and a handmade sand painting for Jonah.

During their time together, Lila and Jonah learned about each other's customs. They participated in a Navajo hoop dance and a Lakota buffalo dance. They shared stories of their ancestors and the importance of preserving their languages.

As the sun began to set, they sat around a campfire, playing traditional songs on the drum and singing together. Lila and Jonah realized that their friendship not only bridged the gap between their tribes but also strengthened their own identities as Indigenous children.

When it was time to say goodbye, Lila and Jonah exchanged contact information, promising to stay friends and continue learning from each other. Their journey had not only brought them together but also created a deeper understanding and appreciation of their respective cultures.

